

Testimony in support of [SB 184](#): AN ACT EXTENDING THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2022, SEVERAL CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 AND CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.

Dear Committee Members, I am writing in support of SB184 to allow all eligible CT Voters the choice to vote by Absentee Ballot during this global pandemic. The evidence is clear that voter fraud is not an issue with this type of voting, to wit the comments made by former director of the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Christopher Krebs that 2020 was the safest election that has ever been held.

In March , 2020 a small group of us formed a coalition of 34 non partisan groups in CT, representing approximately 15k voters. We met weekly to discuss the importance of being able to utilize Absentee Ballots during a global pandemic. Ultimately we were very grateful to the legislature for getting this work done.

While the Covid-19 numbers are going down, at the time of this writing we still have 194 people hospitalized with Covid 19 in CT and 10,443 of our friends and neighbors who have died from the disease. We have no crystal ball as to what the next variant will be, what it will look like, how many of us will get sick and die. We have no idea of when the vaccine will be available for all Americans regardless of age and then, how many will refuse to be vaccinated out of fear of side effects. This is not a screed on vaccinations, but rather an honest assessment of the risks we all face as we navigate the strange new world of Covid 19. Voters like myself must be able to stay safe while exercising our constitutional and civic responsibility.

On a personal note, I am the primary caretaker for my 99 1/2 yr old Mom. As you might imagine, her health is fragile with ups and downs that require me to be with her at unpredictable times. If she becomes ill at anytime prior to election day I will be by her side. As long as she is alive, taking care of her is primary in my life. How would you choose? Take care of your elderly ill Mom or leave her alone to go cast a ballot. I know how I would choose. I would require an Absentee ballot to both stay safe, keep my mother safe, and be with her at the end of her life. That should not stop me from being able to cast my vote.

I take my responsibility as an American citizen seriously. Our ancestors fought and died to have their voices heard. Casting my ballot is the way that I honor their memory and their sacrifice. It is imperative that we expand ballot access here in CT so that all of our voices can be heard.

Thank you,
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